

3

Animal Product
Manual

Reference

Casings

Contents

Introduction	page 3-5-1
Certification	page 3-5-2
Locator	page 3-5-3
Locator	page 3-5-3
Determining if Casings Are of Animal Origin	page 3-5-3
Regulating Casings	page 3-5-4
Regulating Reconstituted Collagen Casings Derived from Ruminant Collagen	page 3-5-4
Regulating Reconstituted Collagen Casings Derived from Swine Collagen	page 3-5-4
Regulating Natural Animal Casings	page 3-5-5
Regulating Ruminant Casings Originating in a Foreign Country	page 3-5-5
Regulating Swine Casings Originating in a Foreign Country Free from ASF	page 3-5-8

Introduction

The *Casings* section covers the decision making necessary to regulate importations of animal casings (natural casings) as well as collagen casings (reconstituted casings). Casings are membranous covers used as food containers for processed meat. Following are examples of animal organs used for natural animal casings:

- ◆ Bladders
- ◆ Bung caps
- ◆ Ceca (cecum)
- ◆ Intestines
- ◆ Stomachs
- ◆ Rectums

Not all products derived from an animal's digestive organs or bladder are casings. Some products are imported for different purposes. Also, there are artificial casings made primarily from cellulose. Therefore, the following animal products and by-products are **not** covered under the casings section:

- ◆ Stomachs imported as edible meat products, like tripe; regulate these products under [Meat and Meat Products](#)

- ◆ Ruminant stomachs and goat gullets imported for the rennet; regulate these products under **Organs**
- ◆ Intestines, bladders, gullets, and weasands imported as inedible animal by-products that are rendered to feed **other than** livestock or to make fertilizers; regulate these products as rendered products under **Animal Waste and Related By-Products**
- ◆ Dried intestines imported for manufacturing into strings for instruments or racquets (gut strings); regulate gut strings under **Animal Waste and Related By-Products**
- ◆ Dried intestines imported for manufacturing into glue; regulate this by-product as glue stock under **Animal Waste and Related By-Products**
- ◆ Moist intestines and bung caps, primarily of ruminant (sheep), imported for manufacturing into articles such as prophylactics. Regulate these products under **Organs**
- ◆ Intestines imported as finished suture material packed in liquid; these products are **unrestricted**
- ◆ Salt scrapings which are the reclaimed salt from casings; scrapings are covered under **Miscellaneous Products**
- ◆ Artificial casings made from cellulose are unrestricted

Certification

Except for artificial casings made from cellulose, all importations of animal casings **must** be accompanied by foreign government certification.¹ The kind of certification will depend upon the following:

- ◆ The species of animal from which the casings were derived
- ◆ The country of origin for the casings (where the animals were slaughtered and the casings collected)
- ◆ The country in which the casings were processed (graded, sized, and sorted)
- ◆ The country where the casings were stored (this pertains only to ruminant casings stored in a region affected with BSE)
- ◆ Whether the casings are natural or reconstituted

¹ Ask importers if they plan to re-export the casings. If they do, advise them to make a copy of the *Foreign Official Certificate for Animal Casings* along with your release stamp. Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) will require a copy of this certificate along with the APHIS Release Stamp to verify that the casings were legally imported into the U.S. Without this copy, FSIS cannot issue their Export Certificate.

Certificates **must** meet the following criteria:


- ◆ Be in English
- ◆ Be issued by a veterinarian authorized by the national government of the country of origin and/or where the casings were processed
- ◆ Have an **original** signature of the person issuing the certificate (printed or stamped signatures are **not** allowed)
- ◆ Bear the insignia of the national government of the country of origin or country in which the casings were processed or stored

Locator

Determining if Casings Are of Animal Origin

Use [Table 3-5-1](#) to determine if the casings are of animal origin.

TABLE 3-5-1 Determine if Casings Are of Animal Origin




If the casings are:	And they are from:	And they are:	Then:
Of animal origin	Collagen (collagen is an animal protein derived from skin, intestines, tendons, bones, cartilage, or connective tissue)	Of ruminant origin	GO to Table 3-5-2
		Of swine origin	GO to Table 3-5-3
	Organs such as bladders, bung caps, ceca (cecum), intestines, esophagi, or stomachs (natural casings)	Packed in leakproof containers such as barrels, casks, tierces, or plastic containers	GO to Table 3-5-4
		Packed in animal skins as containers	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)
Not derived from an animal product; synthetic or artificial (usually appear as pleated like an accordion's bellows)			RELEASE

Regulating Casings

Reconstituted casings are made of collagen. Most of the collagen is obtained from food grade, lined and split ruminant hides. Rarely are swine hides used. Even more rarely is the collagen obtained from non-hide sources, such as intestines. Reconstituted casings and reconstituted collagen casings are one and the same.

Regulating Reconstituted Collagen Casings Derived from Ruminant Collagen

TABLE 3-5-2 Regulatory Action on Reconstituted Collagen Casings Derived from Ruminant Collagen

If the ruminant material originated in a region:	And the collagen was derived from	And they are:	Then:
Affected with BSE	Hides or skins	Accompanied by the proper certification ¹	RELEASE
	Bones, cartilage, connective tissue, intestines, or tendons	Lacking the proper certification ¹ 	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)
Free from BSE			RELEASE

- 1 The certificate must be signed by an official employed by the agency which regulates animal health. The certificate must carry the declaration stating that the collagen was derived **only** from hides or skins. For Canada, a NAFTA certificate with the same statement is also acceptable.

Regulating Reconstituted Collagen Casings Derived from Swine Collagen

TABLE 3-5-3 Regulatory Action on Reconstituted Collagen Casings Derived from Swine Collagen

If the country of origin is known to be:	Then:
Affected with ASF	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)
Free from ASF	RELEASE

Regulating Natural Animal Casings

Determining the Class of Animal from Which the Casings Were Collected

TABLE 3-5-4 Regulatory Action on Casings Once the Animal Source is Known


If you:	And the casings originated in a country or region:	Then:
Determine that the casings were collected from a ruminant (usually cattle or sheep)	→	GO to Table 3-5-5
Determine that the casings were collected from swine	Free from ASF	GO to Table 3-5-8
	Affected with ASF	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)
Determine that the casings were collected from a class of animal other than ruminant or swine	→	
Cannot determine the class of animal from which the casings were derived	→	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. CONTACT PPQ-VRS-AQI or PPQ-HQ personnel

Regulating Ruminant Casings Originating in a Foreign Country

TABLE 3-5-5 Regulatory Action on Ruminant Casings Originating in a Foreign Country




If the region of origin is known to be:	And the casings are from:	And are:	Then:
Free from BSE	→	Dried like parchment (a crease is made when folded)	RELEASE
		Wet or brined (those packed in sealed, leakproof containers are likely to be wet)	GO to Table 3-5-6
Affected with BSE	Stomachs	→	
	Other than stomachs	→	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)

TABLE 3-5-6 Regulatory Action on Ruminant Casings from a Country Known to Be Free from BSE

If the casings were:	And the importation is:	Then:
Both stored and processed in the same country in which the casings originated	Accompanied by a <i>Foreign Official Certificate for Animal Casings</i> ¹	RELEASE
	Lacks the <i>Foreign Official Certificate for Animal Casings</i>	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options, including getting the <i>Foreign Official Certificate for Animal Casings</i> (see Table 2-2-11)
Either processed or stored in a country other than that in which the casings originated		GO to Table 3-5-7


- 1 Foreign Meat Inspection Certificates and Meat Product Certificates are **unacceptable** for casings.

TABLE 3-5-7 Regulatory Action on Ruminant Casings from a Country Known to Be Free from BSE but Which Were Processed and Stored in a Country Other than That in Which the Casings Originated

If the casings were processed in a region	And:	And stored in a region known to be:	And:	Then:
Free from BSE	Either one: ♦ Stored in the same country where the casings were processed ♦ There is no evidence that the casings were stored in another country		Accompanied by both : ♦ Foreign Official Certificate for Animal Casings ♦ Certification as to processing that parallels that shown in Figure 3-5-3	RELEASE
			Lacks either the Foreign Official Certificate for Animal Casings or certification as to processing	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. HAVE the importer supply the missing documentation (see Table 2-2-11)
	Is stored in a different country from where the casings were processed	Free from BSE	Accompanied by both : ♦ Foreign Official Certificate for Animal Casings ♦ Certification as to processing that parallels that shown in Figure 3-5-3	RELEASE
		Affected with BSE		1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. GIVE the exporter the option to re-export or have the casings destroyed
Affected with BSE				

Regulating Swine Casings Originating in a Foreign Country Free from ASF

TABLE 3-5-8 Regulatory Action on Swine Casings Originating in a Foreign Country Free from ASF

If the casings were:	And the casings:	Then:
Processed in the same region where the animal was slaughtered	Are accompanied by certification as to processing that parallels that shown in Figure 3-5-2 ¹	RELEASE
	Lack the processing certificate	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)
Processed in a different country or region from that where the animal was slaughtered		GO to Table 3-5-9

- 1 You may accept **other** official certificates in lieu of the *Foreign Official Certificate of Animal Casings* if the information **parallels** that required on this official certificate (see [Figure 3-5-2](#) for an example of the certificate). However, Foreign Meat Inspection Certificates and Meat Product Certificates are **unacceptable** for casings.

TABLE 3-5-9 Regulatory Action on Natural Swine Casings from a Country of Origin Free from ASF and Processed in a Country Other Than the Country of Origin

If the country or region of processing is:	And the casings:	Then:
Free from ASF	Are accompanied by certification as to processing that parallels that shown in Figure 3-5-3	RELEASE
	Lacks the processing certification	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)
Affected with ASF ¹	Were shipped from an approved establishment listed in Figure 3-5-1	RELEASE
	Were not shipped from an approved establishment listed in Figure 3-5-1	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)

- 1 Swine casings that originate in a country known to be free from ASF, and are sent to a country affected with ASF to be processed must go to an approved foreign establishment (see [Figure 3-5-1](#), “List of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Approved Official Establishment in the Republic of South Africa Authorized to Process Swine Casings,” on page 3-5-9).


Establishment Number	Name and Address of Establishment
59	Freddy Hirsch-Bizerba Scales Pty. Ltd Cor. Vorrtekker Road & 11th Avenue Maitland East, Capetown Republic of South Africa

FIGURE 3-5-1 List of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Approved Official Establishment in the Republic of South Africa Authorized to Process Swine Casings

The certificate issued by the country of processing must have the following additional statements:

- ◆ The animal casings herein described are casings which originated in [country of origin] and were accompanied by official documentation attesting that the casings were derived from animals which received ante-mortem and post-mortem veterinary inspection
- ◆ The casings have **not** been in contact with other casings, meat, or animal products while in [country of processing]
- ◆ The casings have been handled and processed in a clean, sanitary manner

TABLE 3-5-10 Regulatory Action on Swine casings from a Country of Origin Known to Be Free fro ASF and Processed at an Approved Foreign Establishment in an ASF Affected Country

If the importation was shipped from:	And is:	Then:
Approved establishment listed in Figure 3-5-1	Accompanied by the appropriate certification	RELEASE
	Not accompanied by the appropriate certification	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD
Unapproved establishment		2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options

FOREIGN OFFICIAL CERTIFICATE FOR ANIMAL CASINGS		
Place _____ <i>[City]</i> _____ <i>[Country]</i> _____ <i>[Date]</i>		
I hereby certify that:		
The animal casings herein described were derived from healthy animals (cattle, sheep, swine, or goats), which received ante-mortem and post-mortem veterinary inspections at the time of slaughter, are clean and sound, and were prepared and handled only in a sanitary manner, and were not subject to contamination prior to exportation.		
Kinds of casings	Number of packages	Weight
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
Identification marks on the packages _____		
Consignor _____ <i>[Address]</i>		

Consignee _____ <i>[Destination]</i>		
Shipping marks _____		
Signature _____ <i>[Official issuing the certificate]</i>		
(Non-government veterinarian authorized to issue the certificate by the national government of the region in which the animals were slaughtered and the casings were collected.)		
Official title _____		
Signature _____ <i>[Official issuing the certificate]</i>		
(Veterinarian salaried by the national government of the region in which the animals were slaughtered and the casings were collected.)		
Official title _____		

FIGURE 3-5-2 Example of a Foreign Official Certificate for Animal Casings

Certification Requirements

Certification—when animal casings are processed (graded, sized, and sorted) in a country **other than** the country in which the animals were slaughtered and the casings were collected, the importation must be accompanied by certification which is issued in the country of processing.

This certification must contain the following information:

- ◆ City and country in which the casings were processed
- ◆ Date
- ◆ Kind of casings (species of animal slaughtered and casings collected from)
- ◆ Number of packages
- ◆ Weight of casings
- ◆ Identification marks on packages
- ◆ Consignor and consignor's address
- ◆ Consignee and consignee's address
- ◆ Shipping marks
- ◆ Signature of official issuing the certification
- ◆ Name (typed or printed) of official making the certification
- ◆ Official title of person issuing the certification

FIGURE 3-5-3 Information Which Must Appear on Certification of Animal Casings from a Country of Processing that Differs from the Country in Which the Casings Originated

